(c) the reasons for shortfall;

(d) whether there is short supply of material and equipment; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to improve the situation and achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (e) The target fixed for providing telephone connections during the last year (1995-96) was fully achieved. The achievement during 1995-96 was 21.83 lakhs, against a target of providing 20 lakhs telphone connections. The target fixed for 1996-97 for telephone connections is 24.5 lakhs.

ISD/STD/PCO at Tourist Centres in Bihar

1182. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ISD/STD/PCO facilities have been provided at all the tourist centres in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the places where this facility is not available;

(d) whether Government propose to provide this facility to all the tourist centres; and

(e) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (c) Sir, 19 out of 33 tourist Centres in Bihar are provided with STD/ISD/PCO/ facilities. The details are given in the statement *(see below)*.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The remaining tourist centres in Bihar are proposed to be provided with the telecom facilities during 1997-98.

Statement

(I) *List of tourist centres where STD/ ISD/PCOs are available.*

1. Rajgir
2. Pawapuri
3. Netarhat
4. Maithan
5. Gaya
6. Barabar
7. Parasnath Madhuban
8. Rajrappa
9. Hazipur
10. Vaishali
11. Sitamarhi
12. Rikhiya
13. Kemtaul
14. Babu Darhi
15. Darbhanga
16. Kalna
17. Mangalgarh
18. Bhawanipur Pandawl
19. Rajwara

(II) List of tourist centres without STD/ ISD/PCOs.

1. Nalanda
2. Kakolat
3. Hazaribagh
4. Usri Falls
5. Suraj Kund
6. Itkhori
7. Koleswari
8. Betla
9. Sasaram
10. Mohnia
11. Uchait
12. Bispi
13. jaimangal Garh
14. Kapileshwar Asthan.

Upgradation of Telecom System in Rural/ Urban Areas in Bihar

1183. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated/utilised for development, expansion and upgradation of telecommunication systems in rural/ urban areas of Bihar during the last 5 years; district-wise;

(b) whether the development of telecommunication in rural areas has been given the top priority and the implementation was very slow due to non-availability of funds and equipments;